

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to the requirement of 37 CFR 1.121(b), and as stated above, please substitute and replace all the claim sheets, as amended and as originally filed, with the above amended set of claims. The following claim rejections and objections were noted from the Office Action dated January 14, 2005, and pursuant to each paragraph, presented in the same order, arguments follow.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response to this rejection, claims 3 and 11 have been amended to include recitations of individual steps. No new matter was included. (see page 9)

2. Claims 3-8, 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In response to this rejection, claims 3 and 11 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

4. *Claims 3-8, 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.*

In response to this rejection, claims 3 and 11 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

6. *Claims 3-8, 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maack-5,766,057.*

In response to this rejection, claims 3 and 11 have been amended and Applicants have carefully reviewed the prior art. Looking closely at the Maack reference, Applicants respectfully submit that their present invention is significantly different than the Maack reference, structurally, functionally and electronically. Structurally, the Maack reference disclosed grinding and regulating wheels which are carried on opposing feed slides on the machine base. In direct contradistinction, the present invention provides those wheels on a single axis, which provides the incredibly high tolerances. For instance, one of ordinary skill in the art can imagine that the Maack reference requires movement between those feed slide axes in order to dress the grinding wheel and the regulating wheel. This movement between feed slides provides an uncertainty which reduces the tolerances for the grinding operation itself.

On the other hand, as can be seen in Figure 1A of the present invention, both the grinding wheel and the regulating wheel are on the same axis 106. Therefore, dressing, or any other operation to be carried out on both wheels, can be done on a single axis, meaning that there is no movement after the dressing has taken place. This highly increases the accuracy of the grinding machine. The present invention deals with a centerless grinding machine which regularly produces parts with tolerances in the millionths of an inch.

Functionally, the Maack reference is significantly different from the present invention because the regulating wheel is dressed with a dresser slide having a single point of contact. Again, the present invention does not have any sliding mechanisms, except for those that are on the same axis. The dressing unit of the instant invention is attached to the regulating roller on the same axis. The same motor is utilized, which can synchronize all operations on a single axis.

In direct contradistinction, the Maack reference has four separate motors, each of which exhibit a different tolerance within themselves, such that the regulating wheel cannot possibly be as accurate as that of the present invention.

Although the Maack reference discloses a centerless grinding machine with wheel dressers, his dressing process is carried out by a CNC or PLC, which requires hours and hours of manual programming of their computer. On the contrary, the present invention may be operated by merely walking up to the computer, speaking to it, and inputting certain values. In its most recent embodiment, new programs are written by the computer by selecting certain icons which most closely resemble the profile of a part you would like to create (as more fully described on page 9 of the originally filed patent application). The computer will assign certain characters and numerical algorithms to that iconic selection, and a new computer program will automatically be programmed into the computer for the grinding operation. In other words, what used to take hours or days, can now be accomplished within seconds by selecting certain icons off the menu screen, which puts into motion the writing of a new computer program based on the profile you have

selected. It is for these reasons that Applicants respectfully submit that their invention is not anticipated by the Maack reference, nor is it obvious over the cited prior art.

As a side note, Applicants have experienced extremely good commercial success with their grinder and are now the forerunners in the world of centerless grinding machine sales and services. Where it was once a arduous task to reprogram a grinding machine, it must be noted that Applicant's Attorney, who is completely inexperienced at grinding operations, was able to program the grinding machine of the present invention within a scant 3 minutes. Anyone, without any computer training whatsoever, can merely walk up to this computer grinding machine and talk to it, fill in some input data on the radii and other dimensions which are desired and a new computer program will be written based on the iconic selection and the input value determinations in order to provide a new computer program specifically designed for your desired operation.

For the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 11 are now in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner give such an allowance.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her thorough examination, and hope, that by these Amendments, the subject matter of the present invention is now more clearly stated, such that a closer review of the present invention, in light of the amendments and arguments made here, will give solid support for an allowance. Consequently, Applicants request reconsideration in the instant Application and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection in view of the amendments and the following discussion.

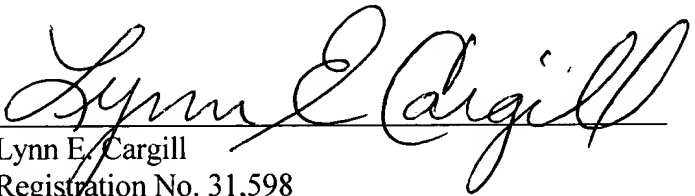
If the Examiner feels that the prosecution of this Application can be expedited by conversation, she is courteously requested to place a telephone call to Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Application No.: 09/720,576
Amdt. dated May 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2005

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the remaining claims now distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that this Application is now in an allowable condition such that it is appropriate to hereby respectfully solicit its allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CARGILL & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn E. Cargill", written over a horizontal line.

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Date: May 16, 2005

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